

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A process for producing a cast-coated paper comprising the steps of applying a coating color comprising a pigment and an adhesive on one side of a base paper, and pressing/drying the coated layer in a wet state against a mirror surface of a casting drum, wherein said process further comprises the step of adding moisture to the coated paper by maintaining it in an air conditioned at 20°C to 80°C, 50 to 95% RH for 20 seconds or more after pressing/drying the coated layer against a casting drum and before reeling.
2. (Original) The process for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 1 characterized in that the hydration of the cast-coated paper is carried out by blowing the conditioned air onto the cast-coated surface and the opposite surface.
3. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 1 or 2 characterized in that wrinkles are prevented by using an expander roll during the hydration of the cast-coated paper by blowing conditioned air.
4. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a cast-coated paper of ~~any one of claims~~claim 1 to 3 characterized in that said process further comprises the step of applying water or an aqueous solution or an aqueous dispersion of a pigment or the like onto the opposite surface to the cast-coated surface and drying it immediately after pressing/drying the coated layer against a casting drum and before maintaining the coated paper in the conditioned air.
5. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a cast-coated paper of ~~any one of claims~~claim 1 to 4 characterized in that the cast-coated paper is for use in ink jet

recording.

6. (Original) An apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper comprising (1) a coater head for applying a coating color comprising a pigment and an adhesive on one side of a base paper, (2) a casting drum for pressing/drying the coated layer in a wet state against a casting drum mirror surface, and (3) a conditioned chamber having an inlet and an outlet for a web of cast-coated paper in this order, wherein said chamber is connected to a blower for sending conditioned air into said chamber and has a conditioned air vent, whereby said chamber is conditioned at 20°C - 80°C, 50 - 95% RH and said web is maintained in said chamber for 20 seconds or more.

7. (Original) The apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 6 characterized in that an expander roll for preventing wrinkles is provided in said conditioned chamber.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 6 or 7, comprising a water applicator for applying water or an aqueous solution or an aqueous dispersion of a pigment or the like onto the opposite surface to the cast-coated surface after said casting drum and before said conditioned chamber.